THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Some Central Ministries/Departments/Institutes are supporting various research programmes for the improvement, cultivation and harvest of suitable flowers for scent and medicinal use in the country including in Uttaranchal. The Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow-a constituent laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has established two field stations for research purpose in the state of Uttaranchal, one near Pantnagar in District — Udhamsingh Nagar and the other near Garur Baijnath in District — Bageshwar. These centers have been carrying out research on improvement and utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants in the region alongwith imparting training to the farmers on cultivation of improved varieties of medicinal and aromatic plants. The Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), an autonomous body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has commissioned a pilot project entitled "Technology dissemination, commercialization and utilization of geranium cultivation through processing and value addition of end products in Uttaranchal at bio-village level" through CIMAP, Lucknow. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has supported a project on field demonstration of improved agrotechnology including processing of Damask rose and pyrethrum in Uttaranchal state. A project on conservation and propagation of orchids of medicinal importance has also been supported at the High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Centre, Srinagar - Garhwal. Two more DBT-sponsored projects, on the genetic diversity and large scale propagation methods of two medicinal plants (*Aconitum and Rheum* complex) *and on the in vitro* propagation of four endemic medicinal species of Himalayas has been recently completed at High Altitude Plant Physiology Research Center, Srinagar - Garhwal and the G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Almora, respectively. As of now, the Government has no proposal to either expand the existing centers or establish new ones in Uttaranchal for plants of scent and medicinal use.

Technique for examining DNA

1552. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CCMB, Hyderabad has discovered a new technique in examining the DNA;

(b) if so, what is the new technique that has been discovered by the scientists of CCMB; and

(c) in what manner, it helps in catching the poachers of animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The new technique uses a pair of novel primers which can amplify by the polymerase chain reaction the genetic material from a biological tissue. The amplified DNA is sequenced and in-silico analysis is carried out using global database. This enables us to establish the identity of the biological sample with respect of the species it has been derived from.

(c) This technique helps in catching the poachers of the animals by not only establishing the identity of the animal, but also indirectly identifying and linking the poacher to the crime as sometimes odd bits of carcass and chunks of meat are the only thing found in the possession of the poacher, thus making it difficult to positively identify the particular animal poached. Using this technique more than 50 cases, forwarded by various wildlife curators and crime investigation agencies have been resolved.

Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

1553. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway is running as per schedule;

(b) if not, the tentative date of completion;

(c) the progress of the peripheral roads connected with the Expressway;

(d) whether the various underpasses and over-bridges meant for facilitating the expressway get completed along with its completion;

(e) the details of latest traffic estimate; and

(f) whether the expressway have capacity to meet the present traffic load?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Work